

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 AID-20 IGA-02

CIEP-03 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SWF-02 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /165 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX

APPROVED BY NEA:LBLAINGEN

NEA/P - MR. VAN ORDER

S/PR - MR. KING (INFO)

EB - MR. SERVICE (INFO)

AGRI - MR. NORTON (INFO)

AID/FFP - MR. MAIR (INFO)

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P 032308Z SEP 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, IN, US

SUBJECT: FOOD AID TO INDIA: PRESS GUIDANCE

1. NEW YORK TIMES SEPTEMBER 3 CARRIED STORY THAT INDIA PRIVATELY ASKING FOR U.S. FOOD ASSISTANCE, BUT PUBLICLY DENYING DOING SO.

2. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S USE, BUT NO QUESTIONS ASKED DURING NOON BRIEFING. GUIDANCE, HOWEVER, USED WITH WARREN UNNA OF STATESMAN, WHO CALLED NEA/INS REGARDING NEW YORK TIMES STORY.

3. QUESTION: HAVE THE INDIANS APPROACHED US ABOUT FOOD?

ANSWER: THE INDIANS HAVE DESCRIBED TO US ON SEVERAL

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OCCASIONS THE KIND OF PROBLEMS THEY WILL FACE THIS YEAR IN

GRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS. THEY HAVE INDICATED THEIR HOPE THAT THE U.S. COULD BE HELPFUL IN THIS AREA. THEY HAVE ALSO MADE SOME COMMERCIAL PURCHASES IN THE UNITED STATES. QUESTION: HAVE THEY SPECIFICALLY ASKED FOR PL-480 AS REPORTED IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES?

ANSWER: THE INDIAN AMBASSADOR HAS NOT MADE AN OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR PL-480, BUT INQUIRED OF US ABOUT FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS THE U.S. MIGHT MAKE IN RESPONSE TO THE SPECIAL UNGA APPEAL FOR THE MOST SERIOUSLY AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN THE CURRENT RESOURCE CRISIS, AND IN THAT CONTEXT HAS ALSO

DESCRIBED TO US INDIA'S OVERALL REQUIREMENTS.

QUESTION: WHAT AMOUNT DID HE ASK FOR? WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

ANSWER: THIS WAS A FAIRLY GENERAL DISCUSSION AND WE'D RATHER NOT GET INTO SPECIFICS AT PRESENT. WE ARE LOOKING AT THE FOOD SITUATION IN INDIA AS WELL AS OTHER COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE FOOD PROBLEMS, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF OUR OWN CROP AVAILABILITIES. INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, PRESS COMMENTS, PL 480, FOOD ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE193289
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKUX
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740244-0051
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740978/aaaacocq.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUL 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FOOD AID TO INDIA: PRESS GUIDANCE
TAGS: EAID, IN, US
To: NEW DELHI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005